

February 25th 2013

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TOWN OF HOLDERNESS

2013 TOWN MEETING NEWSLETTER

Holderness Town Office (603) 968-2145

Special Interest Articles:

- Polls are open March 12th 10:00am to 7:00PM at Town Hall
- Visit www.holderness-nh.gov for election and town meeting information
- Volunteers needed for land use boards

Individual Highlights:

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FY 14 Municipal Budget UP 1.4% OVER FY13

The members of the Holderness Select Board are pleased to announce that, despite some significant challenges with uncontrollable cost increases in employee retirement cost, health insurance and property and liability insurance, the proposed FY 14 budget is up slightly over FY13. The actual dollar increase is just \$31,450 and the total proposed budget is \$2,190,950. Areas of the

budget with notable increases or decreases are; Elections, Personnel Benefits, Other Insurances, Police, Highway, Public Services, Transfer Station and the Library. The highway increase is necessary to cover increases in fuel and road maintenance materials, personnel benefits is the increase in the employer's portion of the employee's retirement contribution. A copy of the

proposed FY14 municipal budget is available at the town office or on the Town's website: www.holderness-nh.gov.



ELECTIONS MARCH 12TH 10:00am – 7:00pm at TOWN HALL

This year's ballot will have voters electing three Select Board members which includes two members for a three year term and one for a one year term. Incumbent Shelagh Connelly is seeking her second three year term on the board, and new comer to the board this fall Sam Brickley is seeking the other three year term. Longtime Board member Peter Webster is seeking the one year term.

Incumbent Pete Woodward is seeking reelection as a Trustee of Trust Funds, along with longtime moderator Ross Deachman, and Fire Ward Earl Hansen. Incumbent Kathy Wieliezko and new comer Tom Stepp are seeking two positions as Library Trustees since Amanda Loud is retiring from the Library Trustees Board this year. Voters will also see this year four questions regarding changes to the Town's

zoning ordinance which was recommended by the Planning Board and one questions that is proposed by petition. At the polls on March 12th voters will also be voting on matters concerning the members to the Holderness Central School Board and the Pemi Baker Regional School District.

VOTERS TO CONSIDER 11 WARRANT ARTICLES ON MARCH 13TH



"Budget Committee conducted an in-depth investigation and review of the HFD's vehicle replacement needs".



The following articles appear on the 2013 Town Warrant: Article 3 - To accept reports of Town Officers and Committees; Article 4 - The operating budget of \$2,190.950 discussed on page one; Article 5 - Annual contributions to 13 existing capital reserve funds for a total of \$369,000, Article 6 - Seeks approval for \$150,000 in road reconstruction work; \$54,000 for a town wide property revaluation;

\$32,000 for a replacement police vehicle for the 4WD Ford Expedition; \$17,000 to cover employee health insurance deductibles; Article 7 - Approval to purchase a new fire pumper truck to replace our existing 1990 E-3 pumper for \$413,000; Article 8 - Proposes to purchase a new replacement 6 wheel dump truck for the Highway Department and sell the 2004 Peterbilt truck at a cost of \$160,000

Article 9 and 10 - Are to see if the voters will vote to establish two new capital reserve accounts and to fund \$10,000 each for the Town and for the Library to be used for future purchases of computers and software; Article 11 - Is for \$7,000 to repaint and re-carpet a portion of the town offices; and Article 12 - To install a generator at the town hall for \$12,000 with grant funds being sought for half the cost.

Why a New Fire Truck Now?

There are several reasons why both the Budget Committee and Select Board are unanimously supporting the purchase of a new pumper fire truck in 2013. The Budget Committee members conducted an in-depth investigation into the condition of the existing equipment the department currently has that included a tour of the FD facility and review of the vehicle being recommended for

replacement. Chief Mardin and members of the HFD truck committee have spent countless hours going over specifications and modifications to the proposed vehicle. The Chief and committee have also identified some key points to be aware of regarding this purchase. This includes improving department response time to emergency fire calls as the new vehicle will have an automatic transmission

that will allow for more members to learn how to operate the new truck. This truck will be capable of transporting 4 members plus a driver/operator enhancing fire attack operations. Purchasing this vehicle this year will also have some economic benefit due to possible EPA and NFPA changes; prices will increase approximately \$15,000 in 2014. The service life of this truck is extended from 25 to 30 years.

Proposed Town Hall Improvements for 2013

Two warrant articles will address improvements to the town hall this year; one is to appropriate \$7,000 to repaint the lower level town offices, bathrooms, hallways and conference room, and to replace some of the carpet in certain areas.

You may recall the offices were remodeled about 10 years ago and they are ready for some freshening up and a color change! Our second proposal for Town Hall this year is to purchase and install a backup power generator that will supply the

building during power outages. Heat, lights and computers, if necessary, will be powered by the generator. This will also allow the Town Hall to serve as the emergency operations center as well. A 50% grant is being sought for this \$12,000 project.

Highway Truck Replacement Plan

Like all Town capital items a plan is used to guide the management of the replacement of capital items from year to year. This plan also provides guidance for our annual capital reserve contributions. Our Highway Department plan calls for replacing this vehicle in 2014 but with pending changes in the EPA emissions requirements it was agreed that moving this purchase up by one year would save money by negotiating a lower sale price without the new emissions equipment,

receive a higher value for the Peterbilt and reduce the maintenance and repair cost on the older Peterbilt truck. Included in this purchase will be the replacement of the plow and hydraulics. The estimated maximum cost of the truck and accessories is \$160,000. If approved, once the new truck arrives the 04 Peterbilt will either be traded to the dealer or sold out right. We will evaluate the market to see which option will bring us the highest amount. Some people have questioned why we replace the plow

and sander when we replace the truck. It has been our practice for the past several years to keep the accessories with the truck as often times we change vehicle types which would require retrofitting the hydraulics. Framing for the plows and the sanders for the big truck are part of the dump body which can be very difficult to swap if the truck style changes each time. Finally, these accessories do get considerable use and would only become costly if we kept them for the life of two trucks or 20+ years.



Why We Have Capital Reserve Funds.....

For the past several years Holderness has carefully salted away, by way of contributions to several capital reserve funds, monies that will be used for future purchases of capital equipment or capital projects. This method of funding capital items is one of three used by cities and towns. The other two methods are "pay as you go", where you simply put your project funding on the tax rate when it's needed, or borrow the funds and the

cost is spread over a portion of the items useful life. For some capital items Holderness uses a combination of capital reserve funds and borrowing when the amount is significant and the useful life 10 years or longer. The pay as you go method creates large swings up and down in the tax rate and the borrowing method adds additional cost depending on the current rates of interest being charged. For this reason Holderness uses

the capital reserve method and determines the amount to be deposited in an account each year by referring to current capital replacement plan.

"The pay as you go" method creates large swings up and down in tax rates and interest from borrowing increases capital costs"

So What is the Fund Balance Policy?

"As of 06/30/12 our unassigned fund balance is \$1,029,038 or 11% of expenditures".

The purpose of a fund balance policy is to establish a key element of the financial stability of the Town by setting guidelines for fund balance.

Unassigned Fund Balance is an important measure of economic stability. It is essential that the Town maintain adequate levels of unassigned fund balance to mitigate financial risks that can

occur from unforeseen revenue fluctuations, unanticipated expenditures, emergencies, and similar circumstances. The fund balance also provides cash flow liquidity for the Town's general operations. The portion of the fund balance that the Select Board utilizes to help with some capital purchases and reducing

the tax rate is the Unassigned Fund Balance. This amount is not obligated or specifically designated and is available for any purpose. This portion of the fund balance is typically a result of excess budget revenue and budgeted expenditures that are not spent. As of 06/30/12 our unassigned fund balance is \$1,029,038 or 11% of expenditures.

Select Board's Call for Volunteers

"Even if you serve just one term we know it will be a wonderful learning and rewarding experience."

Our community finds itself in a dire position of need when it comes to our two land use boards; the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board. As volunteers serve and then leave these boards we are finding it more and more difficult to fill vacancies.

Community volunteerism is an extremely important part of local government and we are calling out to those citizens who haven't served in the past to please consider submitting your application to do so. Even if you only serve one term we know it will be a

wonderful learning and rewarding experience. Please contact the town office for the volunteer guidelines and an application or download them from our Town website today!

REMEMBER EVERY VOTE COUNTS!





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